

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH FORUMS

### FRESNO – SEPTEMBER 1, 2005

#### Community Development

##### Fresno – (Southern)

- What is the distinction between conservation versus preservation? With regards to working landscapes- we need more clarity
- Is strengthen Regional Economy and support community sustainability a program area or desired outcome?- These are outcomes, not programs
- What are specific examples of how SNC would support working farms?
- Agricultural importance in central valley is critical and should be considered
- Agricultural use of and impact of growth on Oak woodlands- encouraging food rangeland management
- Assist uses to improve access to wilderness ( Management practices for access)- Fire safety, safety, direct assistance to local community for fire management
- Example of Denali park creating access (transportation) to park- help local communities
- Balance between open space and development- SNC should play role, planning/master planning assistance, community planning, open space planning as part of development (up front)
- Look at technical assistance to help region come up with planning concepts for community development- leverage existing expertise (Sierra Business Council), Share successes across the range
- Encourage sustainable practices in forestry- success stories, case studies, share across region
- Invest in infrastructure (for development in specific areas) to improve access - agricultural conservation, intersect between valley and foothill
- Direct people to the urban development boundaries
- Maintaining community character when development happens- rock quarry/asphalt plant in the middle of agricultural land (Road 209, Madera), conflicting land uses in foothills (they need help)
- SNC Funds for long-term restoration of resource extraction sites (above/beyond current requirements), need for demonstration projects
- SNC support with - livestock grazing issues
- Recognition of the differences between North Sierra, Central, and South -Change of natural systems between regions
- Regional specificity to community development programs (recognize differences and historic factors)
- Pressure to impound water from Southern Sierra as climate change increases pressure (Increase in land development)
- Focus on watershed management and practices (Best Management Practices)
- Balance between economic and environment in Kern River Valley- maintain community character
- Issue of ranchers losing grazing rights due to fire- link between summer and winter range
- Support efforts to balance conservation (versus preservation) and economic well-being
- Community development as it relates to gateway communities- preserve culture/history
- Scenic corridor designation to project character
- Support forums for community plan updates for more open, broader participation- facilitated- Scenario planning (Show results of decisions)

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#### Health & Well Being

##### Fresno – (Southern)

- Can SNC help fund and plan for defensible space and fuel zones around mountain communities
- Want to see a reduction in prescribed burns and increase in mechanical fuel reduction (air quality)
- What to do with fuel removed - can be a problem
- Smaller burns
- Address public perceptions of prescribed burns
- Pursue biomass options, subsidize
- Do not become a lobbying agency - maintain objectivity
- Create incentives for using smaller diameter logs
- Promote native biodiversity through sensitive grazing practices
- Use of fire in beneficial way
- Consider wildlife movement corridors, fish passage, improve habitat fragmentation problem
- Demo projects to improve public understanding of fire grazing and timber harvest
- Wild places (Tulare City Group) needs more funds for cultural youth involvement
- Want map of groundwater resources in hard Rock areas
- Technical studies to standardize studies for hard rock groundwater in S.N. to better understand resources and their quality
- financial resources to ensure prop mgmt for open spaces
- Ensure SNC staff are knowledgeable and licensed
- Use SNEP work, don't repeat it
- Include climactic water budgets in analysis of planning
- What assistance avail to communities that want to preserve existing character of landscapes and communities
- Concern about mining operation proposed in Madera
- Threats - wildlife and air quality (need better forest mgmt)
- Air quality related to pollution in urban areas
- Concern for natural areas, esp. fire threats
- Propose public collection of firewood to help. One specific area above Bass Lake
- Want communication of local fire-safe councils
- Want to preserve functioning ecosystems- doesn't mean not touching it
- Active forest management, including biomass removal and make finances balance - markets for biomass

#### Property Rights

##### Fresno – (Southern)

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**Technical Assistance**

Fresno – (Southern)

**Tourism & Recreation**

Fresno – (Southern)

- Improve public access, Tule River access, reduce fuels, create forum between forest service and community
- Sierra Heritage Scenic Byway funding for corridor management plan- to make eligible to make Federal design. Forest Service/Fresno city
- Fund establish watershed work
- Funding inter-agency information centers (Yosemite Gateways)
- Protect critical wildlife habitat
- Improving visitor amenities Sequoia National Parks
- Use caution between public and private enterprise -- make policies clear between government / market share
- Protect and preserve historic use and access of pack and saddle stock ( commercial and private throughout the Sierra Nevada)

BY AREA

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- Increase funding and open areas and Operations and Management (stop closing access areas)
- Open more wilderness areas- Spanish lakes, Devil Bathtub
- Multiple Use Recreation Policy -- Cap wilderness conservation
- Agricultural tourism- connect with communities, infrastructure and existing opportunities
- Assist in identifying cultural assets and provide technical assistance with educating developers and development agencies to the benefits of historic district designation
- Provide bi-lingual education liaison- outdoor education
- Create educational relationship with local school
- Create a camp to educate and give hands on experience to do the work- i.e. fuel reduction, trails, monitoring
- Support eco-tourism projects in rural communities- Springville
- Agricultural tourism opportunities/ assistance
- Concerns about fuel reduction methods at the state level
- Grants for fuel reduction and thinning (Sierra forests)
- Inner city wilderness experiences- watershed experience
- Grants for technical assistance with Kern plan
- Responsible access to tourism and or wilderness areas
- Work with military base closures
- Working forest that supports surrounding communities

#### El Dorado (Central)

- Agricultural, arts, and Heritage tourism under a single umbrella (cultural tourism) in order to preserve farmland and open space and promote local and regional artists
- Tourism and recreation should include hunting and fishing components through- maintenance of access points, marketing, producing revenue through gaming preserves, equal access for different activities shared, North Fork American River access through private property so include access through these lands
- Determine how to co-exist with off-road community both for people who want serene environment and OHV community (stewardship)
- Use existing and implement and build existing research like SNEP
- Leave no trace education for all users, especially groups (OHV) who are not aware. (peer-to-peer education, encourage policing own community)